reducing heart weight, wherein said amount is not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects.

22. (Amended) A method for treatment of cardiac hypertrophy by reducing heart weight, wherein said reduction of heart weight is not based on diuretic and hypotensive effects, comprising continuously administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and is able to accelerate production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate, to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight, wherein said amount is not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to achieve a plasma level of about 0.5 ng/mL.

23. (Amended) A method for treatment of chronic heart failure by reducing heart weight, wherein said reduction of heart weight is not based on diuretic and hypotensive effects, comprising continuously administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and is able to accelerate production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight, wherein said amount is not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to achieve a plasma level of about 0.5 ng/mL.

Kindly add new claims 28-29 as follows.

--28. (New) A method for treatment of cardiac hypertrophy by reducing heart weight, wherein said reduction of heart weight is not based on diuretic and hypotensive

effects, comprising continuously administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and is able to accelerate production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate, to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight, wherein said amount is not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects, and wherein said substance is administered by a method selected from the group consisting of orally, intravenously, intramuscularly and subcutaneously.

29. (New) A method as set forth in claim 28, wherein said substance is administered in a form selected from the group consisting of a microcapsule preparation, a suppository, a nasal spray and a sublingual lozenge.--